

CLAIMS

[1] A document transporting device, comprising:

a platen cover adapted to expose and cover a platen, the platen cover including an automatic document transporting section that has a document transport path formed thereinside for transporting an original document to the platen;

a document holder mounted on a mounting portion of a surface of the platen cover, the surface facing the platen when the platen is covered with the platen cover;

an exposing mechanism including a movable plate, the movable plate being disposed between the document transport path and an exposed area that is located at a lateral end of the mounting portion,

wherein the exposing mechanism is adapted to expose the document transport path through the exposed area by moving, away from the exposed area, the movable plate and a first portion of the document holder that is positioned on the exposed area.

[2] The document transporting device according to claim 1,

wherein the movable plate has a first surface and a second surface, the first surface serving as part of the document transport path, the second surface being connected to the first portion of the document holder, and the movable plate being supported pivotably around a pivot shaft that is oriented in a direction perpendicular to a document transport direction.

[3] The document transporting device according to claim 2, further comprising

a biasing member for applying to the movable plate such a force as to move the movable plate from an exposing position to a covering position, the document transport path being exposed when the movable member is in the exposing position and covered when the movable member is in the covering position.

[4] The document transporting device according to claim 3,

wherein the mounting portion has an unfixed area that a second portion of the document holder faces but is not fixed to, and a fixed area that a third portion of the document holder faces and is fixed to, the exposed area and the fixed area sandwiching the unfixed area therebetween, and

wherein the document holder is supported in at least part of the exposed area by the movable plate and supported in at least part of the fixed area by the platen cover.

[5] The document transporting device according to claim 4,

wherein the exposing mechanism is adapted to withdraw the first portion of the document holder by pivoting the first portion in a direction away from the document transport path, and

wherein the second portion is adapted to bend smoothly.

[6] The document transporting device according to claim 5,

wherein the document holder has a sheet member attached

to each of the second and third portions, the sheet member being flat and smooth.

[7] The document transporting device according to claim 6,
wherein the document holder is adapted to be detachable from the movable plate and from the platen cover.

[8] The document transporting device according to claim 3,
wherein the exposing mechanism is adapted to withdraw the first portion of the document holder by pivoting the first portion in a direction away from the document transport path, and

wherein portions of the document holder other than the first portion are adapted to be movable along the surface of the platen cover.

[9] The document transporting device according to claim 1,
wherein the exposing mechanism is adapted to withdraw the document holder along the surface of the platen cover in a direction away from the document transport path.

[10] A document transporting device, comprising:

a platen cover adapted to expose and cover a platen, the platen cover including an automatic document transporting section that has a document transport path formed thereinside for transporting an original document to the platen;

a document holder mounted on a mounting portion of a surface of the platen cover so as to be movable laterally along

the surface, the surface facing the platen when the platen is covered with the platen cover; and

a movable plate disposed between the document transport path and an exposed area that is located at a lateral end of the mounting portion, the movable plate being adapted to be movable from an exposing position to a covering position and vice versa, the document transport path being exposed when the movable member is in the exposing position and covered when the movable member is in the covering position.

[11] A document reading device, comprising:

a platen cover adapted to expose and cover a platen, the platen cover including an automatic document transporting section that has a document transport path formed thereinside for transporting an original document to the platen;

a document holder mounted on a mounting portion of a surface of the platen cover, the surface facing the platen when the platen is covered with the platen cover;

an exposing mechanism including a movable plate, the movable plate being disposed between the document transport path and an exposed area that is located at a lateral end of the mounting portion, the exposing mechanism being adapted to expose the document transport path through the exposed area by moving, away from the exposed area, the movable plate and a portion of the document holder that is positioned on the exposed

area; and

a document reading section adapted to read image data from an original document placed on the platen.

[12] An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a platen cover adapted to expose and cover a platen, the platen cover including an automatic document transporting section that has a document transport path formed thereinside for transporting an original document to the platen;

a document holder mounted on a mounting portion of a surface of the platen cover, the surface facing the platen when the platen is covered with the platen cover;

an exposing mechanism including a movable plate, the movable plate being disposed between the document transport path and an exposed area that is located at a lateral end of the mounting portion, the exposing mechanism being adapted to expose the document transport path through the exposed area by moving, away from the exposed area, the movable plate and a portion of the document holder that is positioned on the exposed area;

a document reading section adapted to read image data from an original document placed on the platen; and

an image forming section adapted to form an image based on image data as read by the document reading section.